APR 2 4 2003 F IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BADE Applicant:

William A. Gindlesperger

Atty. Docket No.

085919.00004

Serial No.:

09/450,023

Group Art Unit:

3624

Filed:

November 29, 1999

Examiner:

Daniel S. Felten

Invention:

"APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR OBTAINING LOWEST

BID FROM INFORMATION PRODUCT VENDORS"

AMENDMENT C

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

GROUP 3600

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated February 10, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the receipt of Applicant's Supplemental Amendment filed January 30, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicant's presently claimed invention.

More specifically, all of the claims in the application currently stand rejected as being obvious in light of the combined teachings of United States Patent No. 5,794,207 to Walker referenced by the Examiner as "WA207" and United States Patent No. 5,659,731 to Gustafson. In the latest office action, the Examiner has again recognized the deficiency of the WA207 reference in that at the very least, it fails to disclose automatically comparing "or matching" vendor records to job data and automatically identifying at least one group from

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PTO/SB/21 (01-03)
Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number **Application Number** 09/450.023 TRANSMITTAL Filing Date November 29, 1999 **FORM** First Named Inventor William A. Gindlesperger Art Unit 3624 (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) **Examiner Name** Daniel S. Felten Attorney Docket Number 085919.00004 Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) to Group Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) > Petition Amendment/Reply Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final **Provisional Application** Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please Terminal Disclaimer Identify below): Extension of Time Request Request for Refund Post Card Express Abandonment Request CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Remarks Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Response to Missing Parts/ any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Incomplete Application No. 50-1794. Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm APR 2 5 2003 Robert J. Depke, Holland & Knight LLC 131 South Dearborn Street, Suite)3000, Chicago, IL 60603 Individual Signature Date April 18, 2003 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 4/18/03 Typed or printed (Reg. No. 37,607) Robert J 4/18/03 Date Signature The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5

process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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